Cleaning of Krishna River under National River Conservation Programme

2070. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to take up cleaning of Krishna river as part of the National River Conservation Programme;

(b) if so, the details of the plan to clean up river Krishna in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) by when this plan would be implemented;

(d) the appropriate cost of this plan;

(e) the portion which will be spent in Andhra Pradesh for cleaning this river;

(f) whether special efforts will be made to set up various sewage purification plants in and around Vijayawada and

(g) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) The Government have approved in principle a National River Action Plan (NRAP), which is a programme for pollution abatement of major national rivers including river Krishna in Andhra Pradesh in their identified polluted stretches;

(b) to (e). The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted proposals for taking up pollution abatement works in Vijayawada located on a tributary of the Krishna river at an estimated cost of Rs. 21.88 crores. The proposal in respect of Kurnool town is being prepared by the State Government. Decision on these works will be taken on receipt of complete proposals.

(f) and (g) The works proposed by the State Government under the programme inter-alia include interception, diversion and treatment of municipal waste water. Accordingly, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has proposed setting up of two sewage treatment plants one of 22.8 millions Litres per Day (MLD) and the other of 32.0 Million Litres per Day (MLD) capacity in Vijayawada.

Steps to protect and increase the Bio-diversity

2071. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated plans to assist States to plant degraded forest land with mixed species of trees of protect the bio-diversity;

(b) the details of concrete steps taken to assist State Governments to protect and increase bio-diversity;

(c) whether any assistance has been sought from foreign agencies for this purpose;

(d) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has sought any funds for increasing bio-diversity in forest lands; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) For afforestation of degraded forest lands, Government of India have formulated schemes such as, Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project, Area Oriented Fuel Wood and Fodder Project; Plantation of Minor Forest Produce including Medical Plants etc. These Schemes also protect the bio-diversity. In addition for *in-situ* conservation of bio-diversity, protected areas like National Parks, Sanctuaries and Biosphere Reserves have been established in various States. Fragil ecosystems like wetlands, mangroves and coral reefs have been identified or conservation and management in various States. The Government of India is providing financial assistance to the State Governments for implementing these Schemes.

(c) Yes, Sir.